

Amendments to the Drawings

Applicant is submitting herewith a new set of formal drawings, including an amended Figure 9 showing element 902 and an amended Figure 11 showing melt channel 1108 extending through nozzle 1102.

Remarks

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-14, 16-22, and 26-27 are being presented for reconsideration, with claim 1 being the sole independent claim. Claims 1, 3, and 4 are sought to be amended. Claims 26-27 are sought to be added. Claims 2, 5, 15, and 23-25 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claims 23-25 are being canceled as being directed to a non-elected invention. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute similar or broader claims, with respect to the cancelled and amended claims, in the future.

Figure 9 has been amended to show element 902, and is supported by, for example, paragraph 0040 in the originally filed specification. Figure 11 has been amended to show melt channel 1108 extending through nozzle 1102, as supported by, for example, paragraph 0043 in the originally filed application.

No new matter has been introduced by any amendments.

The Examiner is thanked for his time during a personal interview with Mr. Jason Eisenberg and Mr. George Olaru on July 18, 2006. The Examiner is also thanked for his indication during the interview and on the Interview Summary that the claims would be allowed if amended as shown above.

Based on the above amendments and following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Objection to the Figures

The Examiner objected to the Figures under 37 C.F.R. §1.84(p)(5) because element number 902 mentioned in paragraph 0040 was not found in the Figures. Applicant is submitting new formal drawings, which include in Figure 9 element 902. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objection.

Claims 1, 2, 4-13, and 16-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,960,072 to Hepler (“Hepler”). Applicant traverses this rejection.

Based on the canceling of claim 2, Applicant believes the rejection of this claim should be rendered moot.

Claim 1 includes features that distinguish over the applied reference. For example, claim 1 recites “a releaseably securable patterned substantially planar heater device comprising, a support device, and an electrical resistive path patterned on the support device, wherein the planar heater device is releasably secured to the at least one substantially flat outer surface of the one or more flat nozzles.”

Hepler teaches, as best seen in Figure 4, heating elements 46 received in grooves 44 formed in a surface of a body section 32 of a bushing, where the heating elements 46 are secured within the grooves 44 using a retainer plate 52. However, as agreed to by the Examiner, Hepler does not teach or suggest the above feature.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 1. Also, at least based on their dependency to claim 1, claims 3-22 and 26-27 should be found allowable over the applied reference.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hepler in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,394,784 to Gellert et al. (“Gellert”). Claims 14, 15, 21, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hepler in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,305,923 to Goodwin et al. (“Goodwin”). Applicant traverses these rejections.

As the Examiner agreed in the interview, none of these other applied references, Gellert or Goodwin, is being used to teach or suggest, neither do they teach or suggest, the above feature noted in claim 1, from which claim 3 depends. Thus, none of these other applied references, Gellert or Goodwin, cure the deficiencies of Hepler. Therefore, the combination of these other applied

references with Hepler does not establish a prima facie case of obviousness. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw these rejections.

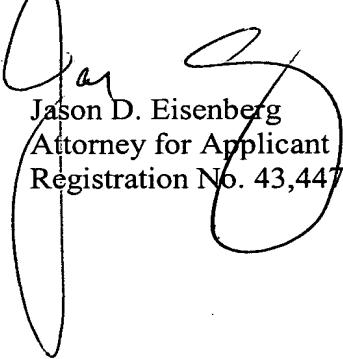
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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